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MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE IN LODGEPOLE PINE, UNTREATED PORTION SAND CREEK AREA, ROGUE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE FOREST SERVICE, CRATER NATIONAL FOREST

Concerning the present mountain pine beetle infestation in lodgepole pine on the untreated portion of the Sand Creek area.

The following additional data on the present status of the mountain pine beetle infestation in the lodgepole pine of the Sand Creek control area is presented to supplement the final report on the Crater Lake Park Control Project.

The data presented herewith were secured in a survey made of the area in October 1927. At this time the attacks of the season were over and the new broods of beetles established in the trees which will still be infested in the spring of 1928, so that at this time it was possible to estimate, with a high degree of accuracy, the total infestation on the area.

The infested area involved is located, as shown on the map accompanying the report, on both sides of Sand Creek and adjoining the Crater Lake Park immediately east of Pinnacle Valley. Previous to 1927 there was no infestation on the Park side of the boundary line north of Sand Creek. Consequently no control work has been done in the park north of this creek, although control work has been carried out each year since 1924 in the lodgepole pine stands south of Sand Creek. The control work done by the Forest Service last spring was mostly confined to the infested area which adjoins the park treated area, although some 400 trees were treated in the area north of Sand Creek. In other words the Forest Service operations supplemented the previous control work already done on the park side of the boundary line but was not extended far enough to the north to cover all the infested area on the National Forest side of the line. As was stated in the report this control work was very efficient and effected a high reduction in the beetle losses. In fact very little reinfestation appeared on the treated area in 1927 after the spring control operations. As a result of the combined control operations carried out jointly by the Park Service and the Forest Service last spring south of Sand Creek this part of the area is now practically free of infestation and unless it is reinfested can be dismissed for the present from further control considerations.

However, the untreated portion of the area north of Sand Creek, where an epidemic infestation still exists, is a potential menace to the treated areas. As I have pointed out in the report, the beetles may remain on this part of the area for a number of years but it is very probable that they will spread from this center and reinfest the controlled areas in both the Crater Forest

and on the Sand Creek drainage of the Park. To prevent this probable result it will be necessary to eliminate this infestation and this should be done in the spring of 1928.

Fully 90% of the untreated area north of Sand Creek is on the National Forest side of the line, the comparatively small number of infested trees on the Park side will not warrant a separate operation by the Park Service. In the event that control work is conducted on this area next spring it is suggested that the Forest Service treat all the infested trees on both sides of the line under an agreement whereby the Park Service would pay its proportionate cost for all trees treated in the Park.

The amount of infestation on this area in the spring of 1928 will approximate 1,000 trees on the National Forest portion and from 100 to 150 trees in the Park. Owing to the topography on the north side of Sand Creek the unit cost of the control work will exceed that of last spring's operations. It is doubtful if these trees can be treated for less than $1 each. On this basis the cost of the operation would be $1,000 for the Forest Service share and $100 to $150 for the Park Service.

Sand Creek at this point, and for a few miles on either side, is in a deep canyon, presenting a difficult problem for transportation. There are no trails or roads across the canyon and none on the north side so it will be necessary to maintain the control camp on the south side and walk the crews to and from work. These conditions will effect an increase in the unit cost over last year's figures.

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